

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0167

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E. O. 11 652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, CH

SUBJECT: AP AND UPI CORRESPONDENTS TO PEKING.

REFERENCE: STATE 98510; BRASILIA 31 28 (SECTO 142).

1. IT SEEMS TO ME UNNECESSARY, UNDIGNIFIED, AND UNPRODUCTIVE FOR DEPARTMENT TO BE DRAWN INTO A POST- MORTEM EXAMINATION WITH AP AND UPI OF WHY THE PRC GOVERNMENT DID NOT ACCORD VISAS FOR COVERING THE OPENING IN PEKING OF THE USLO MISSION. IN RETROSPECT, THE NEWSMEN OF THE TWO AGENCIES, EXCEPT FOR THE NATURAL DESIRE, COMMON TO SOME THOUSANDS OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, TO VISIT CHINA ON ANY EXCUSE, WOULD HAVE HAD, ON THIS OCCASION, NO REAL FUNCTION TO PERFORM. I SUSPECT THAT THE PRC OFFICIALS, A PROUD LOT, DID NOT WELCOME THE PROSPECT OF COMMENTS ON A NON- EVENT; THERE WAS NOTHING TO BE CEREMONIAL ABOUT, SINCE THE PHYSICAL STRUCTURES DESIGNATED FOR OUR PERMANENT USE WERE ONLY PARTIALLY CONSTRUCTED. OUR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATIONS WERE ADEQUATE, BUT SCARCELY ILLUSTRATIVE OF WHAT THE PRC, WHICH HAS MADE GENEROUS PREPARATIONS FOR THE MISSION' S FUTURE REQUIREMENTS, WOULD HAVE CONSIDERED WORTH OF DESCRIPTION.

2. MOREOVER, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF SCATTERED CRITICISM, DIRECTED AGAINST FAVORITISM TO THE UNITED STATES, BY MEMBERS OF MORE NORMALLY ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS HERE, AS WELL AS BY ZOMBIES LIKE THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT, YEMENITES AND OTHERS, THE PRC WERE DISINCLINED TO GIVE ESPECIAL PUBLICITY TO OUR
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ENTRY ONTO THE SCENE; THOUGH PRIVATELY THEY HAVE BEEN ELOQUENT IN MAKING KNOWN THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO THIS QUASI-NORMALIZATION OF OUR ASSOCIATION WITH THEM.

3. THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PRESSURES OUR GOVERNMENT MIGHT ATTEMPT TO EXERCISE ON BEHALF OF AN EXPANDED ADMISSION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN NEWS MEDIA OR INDEED ANY OTHER SPECIFIC GROUPS CONSTITUTES, IN MY OPINION, A GRAVE PROBLEM, NOT TO BE CASUALLY TREATED. NOR SHOULD IT BE ASSUMED THAT THE EXISTING EUPHORIA IN OUR NEWLY DEVELOPED RELATIONSHIP MEANS AN ABDICATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PRC OF THE INSTINCT TO RESIST ANY ATTEMPT BY US, OR OTHERS, TO PERSUADE OR DICTATE TO THEM THE TERMS ON WHICH THEY WILL MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS. THESE PEOPLE ARE ZENOPHOBIC, HOMOGENEOUS, AND NATIONALISTIC, SENSITIVE TO ANY MOVES THEY MIGHT EVEN WRONGLY CONSTRUE AS SMACKING OF INTERVENTION.

4. I THINK THE SUGGESTION OF ATTACHING AP AND UPI CORRESPONDENTS TO AN AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IS DEPLORABLE. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES, I AM SURE, THE IMPORTANCE TO THEM OF ENTERTAINING MEMBERS OF OUR CONGRESS, AND OF DISCUSSION MUTUAL PROBLEMS WITH THEM. BUT IF SUCH MEETINGS ARE TO BE PUBLICIZED FOR HOME CONSUMPTION IN THE U. S., I BELIEVE IT WOULD PREVENT THE OTHERWISE CONFIDENTIAL INTERCOURSE WITH THEIR VISITORS THAT THEY ANTICIPATE.

5. IF THE DEPARTMENT DERIDES IT IS IMPERATIVE TO USE PRESSURE FOR THE ADMISSION OF AP AND UPI WOULD IT NOT BE PREFERABLE FOR THEM TO CONCENTRATE THEIR ATTENTION, FOR THE TIME BEING, ON FIELDS WHERE OFFICIALS OF THE PRC WOULD FEEL LESS INHIBITED? WE NOW HAVE IN PEKING A GROUP OF DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN SCIENTISTS. THEY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS, REPRESENTATIVE OF MANY FACETS OF AMERICAN LIFE. INTEREST IN SPORTS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS AN ALMOST ABNORMAL APPEAL IN THIS NATION. A CONSTANT REFRAIN IS THE DESIRABILITY OF PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONTACTS. SURELY REPORTING ON THESE AREAS IS BETTER SUITED TO THE ENTERPRISE OF OUR JOURNALISTS THAN WHAT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED IN STATE 98510.

6. UP TO NOW, THE PRC HAS INDICATED AN UNWILLINGNESS TO ADMIT AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ON OTHER THAN A TEMPORARY BASIS. I DO
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NOT THINK THE TIME IS YET RIPE TO TRY TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT BUREAUS IN PEKING FOR AMERICAN NEWS MEDIA. BEFORE WE REACH A DETERMINATION ON THIS SUBJECT, THE PRC MISSION IN WASHINGTON SHOULD BE CLOSELY CONSULTED.

7. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE NOT DISPLAY IMPULSIVENESS MAKING WHAT MIGHT BE SOME DEFINITIVE DECISIONS ON THE MATTERS

HERE MENTIONED.

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